



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2943 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003



IN REPLY REFER TO:
PAS 1687.2001.3055

January 14, 2005

Lotus Vermeer, Ph.D.
Project Director, Santa Cruz Island
The Nature Conservancy of California
3639 Harbor Blvd., Suite 201
Ventura, California 93001

Dear Dr. Vermeer:

The Island Fox Recovery Coordination Group (RCG) held a meeting on January 6-7, 2005, during which the group concluded discussion of the analysis provided by Task Force 5 of the Island Fox Working Group (Analysis 4.1) and eagle control recommendations for the coming year. The RCG's recommendations and the requested analysis are enclosed here.

Analysis 4.1—Analyze efficacy of golden eagle control and capture methods utilized to date and recommend innovative program for removal methods, taking into account the most up-to-date information on the status of the wild fox populations—provides a comprehensive review of eagle control and capture methods employed thus far and suggests additional experimental methods that should be tested for their efficacy. The RCG's recommendations stress the need to test these techniques in a coordinated and flexible manner: eagle management efforts should follow a written plan, the recommendations state, while at the same time remaining adaptive. The RCG also recommends that concerted efforts be made to locate golden eagles in the course of other field activities and that food sources for eagles from carrion be minimized.

I agree with the enclosed recommendations of the RCG and urge The Nature Conservancy to put them into practice to the fullest extent possible. I would like to emphasize in particular the importance of recording the methods employed, the effort expended, and the resulting success of all future eagle capture attempts. Only with careful documentation of ineffective methods can the agencies involved progress toward more effective ones.

Please let me know in writing what actions you intend to take, the relevant implementation timelines, and an explanation for your rejection, if applicable, of any of the abovementioned recommendations.

If you have questions, please contact me at (805) 644-1766.

Sincerely,

Diane K. Noda
Field Supervisor

Enclosures

cc: Peter Schuyler, Catalina Island Conservancy